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PROGRAM 60 Minutes

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SUBJECT General Singlaub's Role in Aiding Nicaraguan Contras

MIKE WALLACE: Tonight the story of a retired two-star Army general the Reagan Administration relied on to run a way the Congress had forbidden them to wage. During the 15 months that the Congress refused to give President Reagan the \$100 million he asked for to aid Nicaragua's Contra rebels, retired General John Singlaub defied the will of Congress by taking over for the CIA as virtual director of that war.

The White House, which is now about to get their \$100 million from the Congress, will not comment on what Singlaub did to keep the President's Contra war alive. But when we caught up with the General last summer, we found a proud warrior eager to defend everything he's done. And we found him in a most unlikely place.

This is not the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, not some halftime ceremony in Mid-America. It's a giant rally in Taiwan of the World Anti-Communist League, W.A.C.L., or WACL, as it's sometimes called. And this is General Singlaub, until last month WACL's chairman, here to spread his gospel of anti-communism.

GENERAL JOHN SINGLAUB: And let us take heart that the freedom fighters in Nicaragua...

WALLACE: There is something strange about a retired U.S. Army general calling on anti-communists in the Far East to join in a military campaign in Central America and throughout the world to, as he put it, role back the Soviet empire. And there's the temptation to dismiss it as some kind of exotic nonsense, until you recognize the role that Singlaub has played these last two years in keeping Ronald Regan's Contra war alive.

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